

## **VINTAGE IRON RIDERS**

C/o Tommy Knox  
2312 W. Lake Shore Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62712



## **VINTAGE IRON** ***The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders***

**May 2014**

[www.virmc.com](http://www.virmc.com)

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For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at

<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL0514.pdf>

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### **PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE**

George Tinkham – VIR President

#### Outdoor Transportation Community

As we observe "Motorcycle Awareness Month," we can appreciate how other outdoor (i.e., open vehicle) modes of transportation enjoy features and areas of interest common with motorcycling. The boots I wear when riding are the kind I prefer to use on horseback. They find a stirrup and hold onto a foot peg with equal ease – and offer good protection. My chaps and headwear, however, just cannot make the transition from steel horse to the flesh & blood kind as easily.

Nearly 24 years ago, I met with my brother Ron for a trip to Sturgis and, afterwards, through the Rockies. Concerned that the week plus adventure of riding, camping, etc. (It is the "etc." that will get you!) might demand more than I could deliver physically; I increased the miles I usually ride on my bicycle. This exercise paid off wonderfully when we had days full of long miles and when we crossed the Great Divide off pavement on Hagerman Pass.

Bicycling and hiking also benefit motorcyclists by spurring the development of strong, durable, light-weight camping and comfort gear. Even tire inflation technology has benefited from bicycle use. Also, tarps and rain gear are lighter and stronger because of hiking and bicycling demands. All these improvements make it easier to be comfortable and more capable of handling challenges on the road than what we had back when I first started riding in the early 1960s.

Trips in my 34 year old convertible sports car are more fun because of the size- and weight-saving technology shared with motorcycling. Also shared are the exposure to wind and sun. Thus, skin protection (clothing & SPF ointment) is another concern the motorcyclist and the open car tourist have in common.

Perhaps the most important thing the motorcycling community can share with those engaged in other open vehicle travel is safety. Being in the open, it is relatively easy for a biker to be aware of dangers posed by the road and others on the road. This creates (or at least should create) the habit of looking for things that might interfere with your safety.

This heightened sense of awareness not only is transferable from operating a motorcycle to driving a minivan, but it also makes both driving experiences more fun. After all, if you have trained yourself to be aware of what is around you, you are apt to notice more beautiful sunsets, interesting houses, and cool cars as you travel. Even more important, you will tend to drive more safely. That means you will have a better chance of riding again tomorrow!

### **Annual Club Picnic**



The annual picnic was a roaring success. Thirty (30) motorcycles graced the driveway at Tommy and Tracy's house. A large BBQ pit filled the air with the aroma of slow-cooked pork and fall-off-the-bone ribs. Fresh salads, pies, and chilli were in abundance. Bob Ramsey and LeRoy Solomon headed up the 50-mile club ride through Sangamon and Christian counties on a windless, perfect riding day. Several non-members took advantage of the hospitality that was offered. Mike Scarborough and Chris Karkut rode the farthest. It really was a fantastic day for a picnic and ride.

### **Springfield Mile**

The Memorial Day Springfield Mile Park and Display will be Sunday, May 25. Your help is needed to set up and take down the banners in the display area. The club will be selling MOTO GP raffle tickets with all proceeds going to the club. We will also be placing flyers advertising our club on the handlebars of vintage motorcycles. The Springfield Mile is the main display venue that our club has. Please come to support the Mile and show solidarity by wearing VIR apparel. We will have more information at our May meeting.

## **Upcoming Events**

**ABATE State Party** – June 20-22, 2014, Menard County Fairgrounds 18450 Old Fairgrounds Ln., Petersburg, IL

**Mark Morrison's Garage Night** – June 12, 2014, Bloomington, IL. Contact Mark to confirm.

**Ride to the Blues** – Every Monday 7:00 pm join Tommy Knox for a ride to The Alamo downtown to listen to quality blues bands. 529-2655

## **Advertisement**

Gooch Printing 140 W. Lenox a full service printer and a great asset to VIR Call 522 7575 for any copy or printing needs. Jim also offers classes on gun safety and concealed carry.

Minutes of Meeting  
**Vintage Iron Riders**  
**Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center**  
**April 16, 2014**

Socializing began at 7:00 and the meeting was called to order by Vice-President John Anderson at 7:15 pm. Pledge was taken and cell phones were turned off. Minutes approved from March meeting.

**Picnic:** Members want pulled pork and ribs. LeRoy Solomon to organize the ride at 2:00 pm. Members encouraged to bring a covered dish.

**Park and Display:** The handlebar hangers from Gooch printing were shown to members and solicitation to pass out the hangers for the Springfield Mile was made.

LeRoy Solomon gave an appeal for members to support the Springfield Mile and stressed the importance of the Mile to our club.

**Products:** T-shirts and caps were available for purchase.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Jeff White Memorial fund has 2,249.75 and the General fund as \$2,659.58 for a total of \$4,905.58.

## **Projects:**

John Anderson showed pictures of a bike he just purchased in Tennessee.

Dave Darnielle requested to be contacted if anybody went for a short ride.

## **Activities:**

Awareness Rally is May 4<sup>th</sup>. George Tinkham reminded membership of the ABATE Awareness Rally and suggested that members meet at one spot to ride together.

Quaker Steak – Nothing has been scheduled definitively for Bike Night.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm/

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tommy Knox, Secretary

**June 2014**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Board Mtg.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 Garage Night</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 ABATE</b>	<b>21 STATE</b>
<b>22 PARTY</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 ASHLAND</b>	<b>27 SUMMER</b>	<b>28 DAYS</b>
<b>29 Ashland Summer Days</b>	<b>30</b>					